

MODERN TEACHING METHODS AND THEIR EFFECT ON STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

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ABSTRACT: Modern education is undergoing rapid transformation due to social, technological, and pedagogical changes. Traditional teacher-centered approaches are gradually being replaced by learner-centered and interactive teaching methods designed to enhance student achievement. This article explores modern teaching methods such as problem-based learning, collaborative learning, blended learning, and technology-enhanced instruction, and examines their impact on students' academic performance, motivation, and critical thinking skills. The study is based on an analytical review of contemporary scholarly literature and provides an original academic discussion of how innovative pedagogy contributes to improved learning outcomes.

KEYWORDS: *modern teaching methods, student achievement, active learning, collaborative learning, education*

INTRODUCTION: In recent decades, education systems worldwide have experienced significant changes driven by globalization, technological advancement, and evolving societal needs. The rapid growth of information and communication technologies, as well as increased demands for critical thinking and problem-solving skills, have challenged traditional models of instruction. Teacher-centered approaches, which primarily rely on lectures and rote memorization, are increasingly viewed as insufficient for preparing students for the complexities of modern life. As a response to these challenges, modern teaching methods have emerged, emphasizing active learning, student participation, and meaningful engagement with content. These methods aim not only to transmit knowledge but also to develop learners' cognitive, social, and emotional skills. Student achievement, understood as academic performance, knowledge retention, and skill development, has become a key indicator of the effectiveness of these innovative approaches.

LITERATURE REVIEW: Modern teaching methods are grounded in constructivist learning theory, which views learning as an active process in which learners construct knowledge through experience and interaction. According to constructivist principles, students learn more effectively when they are actively involved in the learning process rather than passively receiving information. Educational theorists such as John Dewey and Lev Vygotsky emphasized the importance of social interaction, problem-solving, and real-life relevance in learning. These ideas form the foundation of many modern instructional approaches. Learner-centered education recognizes individual differences, learning styles, and the importance of autonomy, thereby creating a more inclusive and effective learning environment. Modern pedagogy also aligns with Bloom's revised taxonomy, which prioritizes higher-order thinking skills such as analyzing, evaluating, and creating. Teaching methods that promote discussion, collaboration, and inquiry are particularly effective in helping students reach these cognitive levels, ultimately leading to improved academic achievement.

Types of Modern Teaching Methods

Problem-based learning (PBL) is an instructional approach in which students learn by actively engaging with real-world problems. Instead of receiving direct instruction, learners work collaboratively to analyze problems, identify knowledge gaps, and propose solutions. The teacher acts as a facilitator rather than a primary source of information. Research indicates that PBL enhances critical thinking, problem-solving abilities, and long-term knowledge retention. By connecting theoretical concepts to practical situations, students develop a deeper understanding of subject matter. As a result, problem-based learning has been shown to positively influence academic achievement, particularly in higher education and professional training contexts.

Collaborative learning involves students working together in small groups to achieve shared learning goals. This method encourages peer interaction, communication, and mutual responsibility for learning outcomes. Cooperative learning structures tasks in a way that ensures individual accountability while promoting group success. Studies show that collaborative learning improves academic performance by allowing students to explain concepts to one another, thereby reinforcing understanding. Additionally, it enhances social skills, motivation, and self-confidence. Students engaged in cooperative learning environments often demonstrate higher achievement compared to those in traditional classrooms.

Blended learning combines traditional face-to-face instruction with online learning components. This approach allows students to access digital resources, engage in interactive activities, and learn at their own pace while still benefiting from direct teacher guidance. Blended learning has gained popularity due to its flexibility and

effectiveness. Research suggests that this method improves student achievement by providing personalized learning opportunities and increasing engagement. The integration of multimedia content and online assessments also supports diverse learning needs and promotes independent learning skills.

Technology-enhanced instruction utilizes digital tools such as educational software, interactive whiteboards, and online platforms to support learning. When used effectively, technology can transform the classroom into a dynamic learning environment. Educational technologies facilitate access to information, encourage collaboration, and support formative assessment. Students exposed to technology-integrated instruction often demonstrate improved academic performance and increased motivation. However, the effectiveness of this approach depends on purposeful implementation and teacher competence.

DISCUSSION AND RESULTS: Numerous studies have demonstrated a positive relationship between modern teaching methods and student achievement. Active learning strategies, including discussion-based activities and hands-on tasks, lead to better understanding and retention of knowledge. Prince (2004) found that students engaged in active learning outperform their peers in traditional lecture-based settings. Modern teaching methods also enhance intrinsic motivation, which plays a crucial role in academic success. When students feel involved and responsible for their learning, they are more likely to invest effort and persist in challenging tasks. Collaborative and problem-based approaches create meaningful learning experiences that increase student engagement. Furthermore, modern instructional strategies support the development of transferable skills such as communication, teamwork, and critical thinking. These competencies contribute to overall academic achievement and prepare students for future educational and professional challenges.

Despite their benefits, modern teaching methods present certain challenges. Teachers may face difficulties related to classroom management, assessment, and time constraints. Implementing innovative approaches often requires additional training and professional development. Limited access to technological resources can also hinder the effective application of modern methods, particularly in under-resourced educational settings. Additionally, resistance to change from both educators and students may slow the adoption of new pedagogical practices. Addressing these challenges requires institutional support, continuous teacher training, and the development of flexible curricula that accommodate innovative instruction.

CONCLUSION: Modern teaching methods play a significant role in improving student achievement by promoting active engagement, critical thinking, and meaningful learning experiences. Approaches such as problem-based learning, collaborative learning, blended learning, and technology-enhanced instruction have been shown to positively influence academic performance and motivation. Although

challenges exist in implementing these methods, their benefits outweigh the limitations. Educational institutions should encourage the adoption of innovative pedagogy and provide adequate support for teachers. By embracing modern teaching methods, educators can enhance learning outcomes and better prepare students for the demands of the modern world.

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